

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/828,888

Examiner

A. Dexter Tugbang

Applicant(s)

GUAN ET AL.

Art Unit

3729

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on June 4, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The examiner notes that upon further consideration, the suggestion made by the examiner to the claim language in the last Office Action (Ex Parte Quayle, mailed on April 9, 2007, paragraph #7) was an inadvertent error with respect to the "widths" (line 11 of Claim 1). The following change to Claim 1 is merely to correct the grammar of the language and to correct the examiner's previous inadvertent error. Furthermore, the change to Claim 1 in no way affects the scope of the claimed invention. Additionally, the examiner as provided a revised Reasons for Allowance as follows.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended as follows.

In Claim 1, after "whose widths" (line 11), the phrase of —of said side shields—has been inserted; the term "the" (line 11) has been deleted; and "by an amount" (lines 11-12) has been deleted.

In Claim 6, "the vertical" (line 2) has been replaced with —a vertical--.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The prior art does not teach all of the limitations of the claimed invention including: placing a pair of side shields that contact the trailing shield, that have bottom surfaces coplanar

with the air bearing surface, the side shields having opposing outer edges separated by an amount equaling the second width, whose widths of the side shields exceed the length of the write pole (as recited in Claim 1).

The closest prior art references are directed to Hsu et al (U. S. Patent 7,002,775) and Plumer et al (U. S. Patent) 7,100,266).

Hsu shows placing a pair of side shields (e.g. 44A, 44B) having bottom surfaces that are coplanar with an air bearing surface. However, Hsu does not teach that the opposing outer edges of the side shields are separated by an amount *equaling* a second width of the return pole. In Hsu, the width of the return pole (e.g. 43 in Fig. 2) is a distance that is much greater than the width amount of the opposing outer edges of the side shields. Furthermore, Hsu does not teach a write pole that is tapered to have an increasing width in a direction away from the air bearing surface and Hsu is silent as to the width of each of the side shields relative to the length of the write pole.

Plumer shows a write pole (e.g. 180) that is tapered (at bevel 220) to have an increasing width in a direction away from the air bearing surface. However, Plumer does not teach a pair of side shields.

So to combine the references above would be impermissible hindsight since the combination would not meet all of the limitations of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claims 1 through 15 are allowed.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Dexter Tugbang whose telephone number is 571-272-4570. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**/A. Dexter Tugbang/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3729**

November 26, 2007